

§Appl. No. 10/690,723  
Amdt. dated October 27, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of, July 27, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1.** (Currently Amended) A mining hopper for the transport of material comprising:  
at least one steel portion comprising a bottom floor, a plurality of side walls and a front wall;  
at least one rubber or polymer portion;  
wherein said at least one rubber or polymer portion comprises a substantially planar mat  
varying in thickness over its length and at least one additional planar mat associated with each of  
said sidewalls and said front wall.

**Claim 2** (Cancelled)

**Claim 3** (Currently Amended) The mining hopper of claim 2 1 wherein said at least one  
steel portion further comprises a visor portion.

**Claim 4** (Cancelled)

**Claim 5** (Original) The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a fastening system for  
supporting said substantially planar mat.

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**Claim 6 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 5 wherein said fastening system comprises a plurality of elastomeric ropes which are located in parallel with one another.

**Claim 7 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 6 wherein said fastening system further comprises at least one clamp and one bolt associated with each said elastomeric rope for adjusting the tension on each of said elastomeric ropes.

**Claim 8 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a support frame, said support frame comprising a plurality of square-shaped longitudinal beams and a plurality of square-shaped transverse beams, said transverse beams, said transverse beams being perpendicular to said longitudinal beams.

**Claim 9 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 1 wherein said steel portion comprises a front wall and a plurality of side walls.

**Claim 10 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 9 wherein said front wall has a rectangular shape and a hexagon hyperbolic base.

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**Claim 11 (Currently Amended)** The mining hopper of claim 9 wherein said side walls have a ~~trapezoidal~~ substantially triangular shape.

**Claim 12 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a front wall and wherein the thickness of said planar mat varies such that said planar mat is thinner in an area which is closest to said front wall..

**Claim 13 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 6 wherein said elastomericropes comprise polyester fibers covered with rubber.

**Claim 14 (Original)** The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising at least one removable and adjustable rubber block fastened to said steel portion.

**Claim 15 (Currently Amended)** A mining hopper for the transport of rock and ores comprising:

a steel portion comprising a bottom floor, a plurality of side walls and a front wall

~~a portion~~ portions formed from polymers;

wherein said portions ~~portion~~ formed from polymers comprises the body of said mining hopper, said body bearing the impact and wear resulting from the transport of said rocks and ores,

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and wherein said steel portion functions to fasten and support said ~~portion~~ portions formed from polymers, said body further comprising a separate body portion, a plurality of separate side walls, a separate front section, and a separate visor all formed from polymers.

**Claim 16** (Cancelled)

**Claim 17** (Cancelled)

**Claim 18** (New) The mining hopper of claim 15 wherein the bottom portion, plurality of side walls front section and visor are a combination of steel parts and polymers.